Constitutional Recognition of D.G.H.C.

4022. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, D.G.H.C. Darjeeling has submitted a claim to Central Government for constitutional recognition of D.G.H.C. and its inclusion in VIth schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the opinion of Government of West Bengal as well as Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) :(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Chairman, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has made some demands for review of entire Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988 with a view to getting more powers for the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. Government of West Bengal in consultation with Chairman and Chief Executive Councellor, has set up a High Powered Committee to review the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988.

GNLF Claims for Gorkhaland

4023. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 5th April, 2000 the Gorkha National Liberation Front has declared their claim for Gorkhaland;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during signing of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council accord, Shri Subhash Ghising agreed not to raise the demand of Gorkhaland for ever; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government regarding present developments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) As per reports available, on 5-4-2000, the GNLF Branch Committees of [redacted] and Kalimpong of Darjeeling district in West Bengal observed 'Gorkhaland Demand Revival Day' to commemorate the party's foundation, by holding a rally. At this rally, GNLF Branch Committee leaders made a plea for formation of Gorkhaland.

(b) In the Memorandum of Settlement signed on 22-8-1988, it was agreed that "In the overall national interest and in response to Prime Minister's call, the GNLF agree to drop the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland".

(c) Government is keeping a close watch over the developments.

Foreign Fund for Australian NGO

4024. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Community Aid Abroad, an Australian organisation, has recently opened Regional Representative Office in Bangalore (India) for Welfare programmes; and

(b) if so, [illegible] objectives and the total foreign amount received by the Indian Office under FCR(A) Act, 1976 during the last three years and the Welfare projects [illegible] foreign funds have been utilised by this NGO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) As per information available with this Ministry, the said representative's field office has been functioning at Bangalore since 1991.

(b) According to information received from the Community Aid Abroad, Bangalore, the object of the Bangalore field office is to service the funding and non-funding needs of project partners in the Non-Government/Voluntary sector in Southern and Eastern India. During the period 1997-98 and 1998-99, the said field office reported the receipt of foreign contribution amounting to Rs. 2.71 crores. The foreign contribution was used to fund projects in the field of rural development. The return for 1999-2000 due on or before the 31st July, 2000, has not been filed as yet.

Pay Scale of Translators

4025. SHRI K. KALA VENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the pay scales of [illegible]istant Directors/Translators officers in Central Secertariat Official Language Service and in Central Translation Bureau respectively;

(b) whether the same scale exists in both the departments; and